

Roblee MVP In Salamanca Wrestling Tournament-- Pioneer (6 Champs) Runaway Winner...

TEAM SCORING

Pioneer	107	Portville	20 1/2
Olean	50 1/2	Medina	17 1/2
Salamanca	46 1/2	Gowanda	16 1/2
Warsaw	43 1/2	Eden	15
Falconer	43 1/2	Jamestown	12 1/2
Southwestern	33	Alden	8 1/2
Cattaraugus	32	Allegany	8
Maple Gr.	24 1/2	Grand Is.	7

By Times Herald Reporter

SALAMANCA — It was this kind of a runaway for Pioneer Central School's unbeaten wrestling powerhouse with a third straight Salamanca Tournament title:

(1) Piling up 107 points, Pioneer wasn't even threatened for the team title and after the semi-final bouts had an 80-point margin over the second place team.

(2) Phil Roblee and Keith Stearns, a pair of unbeaten, were one-two in the MVP vote, with Roblee getting the nod, six votes to four. It made

two years in a row for Roblee as the MVP.

(3) Besides Roblee and Stearns, Pioneer had four other tournament champions and a seventh who lost out in his 169 title match.

It was Don Hackett, as the "unfortunate" who did not win his title bout and Dick Post, Pioneer's coach was asked by a reporter: "Did you bawl him out?"

Post, going along with the quip, laughed: "Oh no. We're satisfied."

THE TWO-DAY event that included a star-studded field from 17 schools, ended Saturday night with more than a 1,000 persons jamming the

Salamanca Central School gym. In the four years of the event, Pioneer has won two outright and tied with Portville for the title a third time.

All the more amazing — and something of a tribute to the seeding of the coaches ("it's some hassle, this seeding, and this one took more than seven hours" — George Whitcher, Salamanca coach and tournament director) — was how the pre-tourney form held up.

"We had 14 championship bouts and of the 28 in the finals, only one — just one — of the finalists was unseeded," Whitcher enthused, providing of

the accuracy of the seedings. "It's always the bone of contention, the seeding," he added. "The coaches go at it hammer and tongs, trying to get the best possible position for their boys."

OLEAN HIGH, like Pioneer undefeated in dual meet competition, emerged with three champions, Warsaw two, while Salamanca, Falconer and Gowanda each came up with one titlist.

Dan Shembada, another Olean grappler who was undefeated going into the 121 title bout with Pioneer's Bill Fuller, had dropped down in class (from 128 pound division) and the gamble by his coach, Mike Foster, almost paid off. "This was the first time Danny has gone in at 121. Fuller was the one who beat him last year and I sort of owed it to Danny to give him his chance."

Besides Roblee, Stearns and Fuller, the other Pioneer winners were Mike Arnold and Gary Devin. Olean's winners were Jim Diehl (in 90 pound class), Dave Crean and Kirk Anderson.

FIVE OF THE finalists — including Shembada and Salamanca's John Fitzgerald — dropped their first matches of the season.

The 14 champions had to go 4-0 en route to their titles and that's where Foster's thoughts

on the tournament's MVP entered: "I don't want to sound sour grapes, but I thought my boy, Crean, should have been named. He won his first match (Friday) over the No. 7 seeded boy, then on Saturday he beat the No. 3 seed, then the No. 2 seed who is Audie Plumley, of Alden, and he is a three-time sectional champion, and he finished it off by beating the No. One seed in the title match."

"I think that was some feat." All four of Roblee's victories were pins, while Stearns had three pins and a decision victory. Olean's Anderson — possibly the coolest performer in the tournament, if not all of Section 6 (five WNY counties) — had two pins and two decisions, 10-4 and 10-0 scores. The title matches (records of

winners, losers included in brackets):

- 90 — Jim Diehl (Olean, 13-0) dec. 8-2 Barry Halberg (Maple Grove)
- 100 — Mike Ognibene (Falc., 16-0) dec. 15-1 John Gillen (Warsaw, 11-3)
- 107 — Dave Crean (Olean, 9-2) dec. 10-5 Tom Birmingham (Eden, 14-1)
- 114 — Mike Arnold (Pioneer, 17-0) dec. 2-1 John Fitzgerald (Sala., 16-1)
- 121 — Bill Fuller (Pioneer, 16-1-1) dec. 5-1 Dan Shembada (Olean, 16-1)
- 128 — Dale Rogers (Pioneer, 14-2) dec. 7-1 Bruce Johnson (Iroq.)
- 134 — Phil Roblee (Pioneer, 18-0) pin 4:48 Tim Richir (Falc., 15-1)
- 140 — Kirk Anderson (Olean, 17-0) dec. 10-0 Mike Clark (Iroq., 14-2)
- 147 — Keith Stearns (Pioneer, 18-0) pin 3:30 Duane Smith (Catt., 13-2-1)
- 157 — Gary Devin (Pioneer, 9-2) dec. 6-4 Dan Golando (South., 12-2)
- 169 — Ed Sunderlin (Warsaw, 16-0) dec. 9-1 Don Hackett (Pioneer, 13-5)
- 179 — Dick Gernatt (Gowanda, 10-2) dec. 10-9 Jack Hager (Sala., 14-2)
- Heavy — Mark Sartori (Sala., 17-0) dec. 3-1 Bill Johnson (South., 12-3)
- Unlimited — John Hackemer (Warsaw, 8-0) pin 1:21 Mark Taber (Iroq.)



Kirk Anderson, Olean



Dave Crean, Olean



Mark Sartori, Salamanca



(Times Herald Photo)

COACH Dick Post is shown here with three of his Pioneer Central School wrestlers who won titles Saturday night in the Salamanca Invitational Tournament. Standing, Keith Stearns (left) and Phil Roblee (right); kneeling, Mike Arnold. Roblee edged Stearns for the MVP award in the tournament. Pioneer won the team title.

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Bradford Shooters Notch PONY Rifle League Win

CORRY, Pa. — Notching its second straight victory in the Pennsylvania-Ohio - New York (PONY) Rifle League, Bradford High School recorded 1,871 in topping eight-school field on

are scheduled: Feb. 16 (at Corry), Mar. 9 (at Bradford) and Apr. 6 at site still to be decided. Bradford's unbeaten streak in dual meets was ended last year at 79. Harry Quiggle is

Wrestling

ALLEG. CO. WRESTLING

	W	L		W	L
Cuba	6	0	Fillmore	2	3
Bolivar	5	1	Belmont	1	4
Alf. Alm.	3	3	Oswayo Val.	0	6

Wednesday's Matches

Cuba at Bolivar
Belmont at Alfred-Almond
Fillmore at Oswayo Valley

TRI-COUNTY WRESTLING